105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

1. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirement of the State Board of Education that the Joint Operating Committee adopt policies that assure parents the right to have a student excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs.

2. Definition
As used in this policy, the phrase specific instruction means identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It does not include required reading or learning outcomes.

3. Guidelines
The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents of students enrolled in this school where the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over, unless the student is incapable of making the decision due to a disability.

The school shall excuse any student from specific instruction, as defined in this policy, upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

1. The request must be made in writing. It must detail the specific instruction from which exemption is requested.

   The request shall be sent by the qualifying parent or student to the building principal. Provision shall be made for one (1) copy to be retained in the student's permanent school records and a second copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

2. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described in the written request conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents.

3. The parent and/or student shall designate on the request to be excused replacement educational activities in which the student shall engage during the excused time. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the school.
It shall not be the responsibility of the school or any of its officials to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused and school employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. Instead, it is the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is being presented or is about to be presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher is to excuse him/her if (a) the teacher has a copy of the written request or, if upon checking with the principal, the principal has a copy of the written request; and (b) the written request adequately describes the instruction that is taking place or about to take place. The building principal shall determine where a student shall report during the excused time period.

PA Code
Title 22
Sec. 4.4, 11.7

Joint Operating Committee Policy 102